



October - 2016

Dear Friends,

With this letter, you have received a 2017 daily planner, and each year, we like to remind everyone our primary purpose for producing this calendar is to teach truths found in God's Word! Thus, we hope you will find it useful and/or give it to someone who does. With that, let me say that this calendar project saw greater interest in 2016 than we ever could have anticipated! Literally, it was hard to keep up with the production demand as the numbers increased far beyond projections. This is why many who ordered 2016 calendars, or any of our material for that matter, may have found it took a little bit of time to get items from us. We always try to keep costs down by not producing more than will be needed, but it seemed we just never could get ahead of the production in 2016. While this was a lot of work, we are grateful for the opportunity to help so many learn God's Word, and humbled by the great interest in all this ministry's materials which have grown over the years. I want to thank all of you for your interest, your patience as we attempt to keep up, and I want to apologize to all those who have had to wait to receive responses to your requests!

Having said all that, I want to turn now and talk about what is new for the 2017 calendar. First, I mentioned last year that we were having trouble with the supplier for the plastic covers, and as a result many 2016 calendars were sent out without plastic covers on them. We are pleased to say a new supplier has been found, and it is our belief the new plastic covers on the 2017 will be of much better quality. It is also our prayer that the new supplier will be a much more stable one, and that will lead to more consistency year after year. This change also led to a second change, because in making a new plastic cover we took the opportunity to increase the size of the cover and, of course, along with it, the calendar itself. While this change is a great help to our ability to produce the calendar, don't worry, it is a very small size change, and you will not likely notice it unless you put the 2017 directly up against an older version of the Living Springs' calendar!

This brings us to the third and most noticeable change to the 2017 calendar, and that's the paper cover. Since the very first prototypes were made back in 2009, the paper cover has remained unchanged from the solid gray it's always been. However, the paper supplier for these covers had also become an increasing problem for us, and especially with the increase in numbers of calendars produced in a year, it was necessary to change the paper cover as well. We did attempt to match the gray, but in the end it was not possible to really do so. However, the ultimate choice for the new paper was made with the intent of keeping the change to a minimum. While there will always be those more in favor of one thing over another, our main goal was to maintain that very neutral look we hoped everyone would continue to find appropriate to take into whatever environment one uses this calendar in. We hope you like it, and we are very open to any feedback you may have on any of these changes.

Feedback

With all that in mind, we want to remind everyone again about the electronic survey we have on our website, which can be found by visiting www.livingspringsinstitute.org, clicking on "Learning Center," then "Calendar Project." There you'll find the link to the survey near the top of the page. We may or may not have found the time to get this survey updated a bit from what it has been before, but feel free to answer whatever questions you might want, leave others blank, and make full use of the comment boxes.

On that note, one of the biggest areas of feedback we will be seeking this year is how well this

new calendar has held up over the year! It is our belief we've improved all the materials the calendar is made of at this point, but, of course, one never knows until something actually goes into daily use. We also understand it is hard for everyone to remember later in the year to come back and let us know about the durability issues, and due to that we may be sending out a reminder and/or a short survey mid to late 2017 in order to ask about these things. We always appreciate any feedback those who use our materials are willing to share; and while we want to assure everyone your feedback is confidential, we will continue to talk generally about our response to the feedback we get on our Survey Response page. The link to this page can also be easily found by visiting the Calendar Project page!

Companion Book

For all those who have hoped for the companion book and have heard me apologize every year for not getting it done along with the assurance it is something we want to accomplish, it is my prayer you have not completely given up! I can make no promises at the time of writing this letter, but the book, as much as anything can be, has recently been moved up near the top of our things to do list. It was our great hope that at least a first edition of it might actually be available to go out with all the calendars, but that wasn't possible, so this is where we are at this point. We know the book will not be ready in time to go out with the pre-order calendars, and it looks as if it would be nothing short of a miracle from God that it will be ready to go out with the Nov./Dec. issue of *Shaqah* when the rest of the calendars go out. However, if The Lord wills the progress of this book to continue going forward, it is possible the book could be released around the first to early part of 2017!

The bottom-line on this issue is, if your calendar did not come with a companion book, it is our prayer you will be getting one at a later date not too far in the future; but I emphasize again, all this is in God's hands! One important note about this, which I will take the opportunity in this letter to point out, is that it will not be an automatic thing for us to send a book along with each calendar when sending out multiple calendars that people have ordered to give to others. What this means is that if/when the book is available and you want books to give to those you already gave calendars to, you will need to order the number of books you need. If you order multiple calendars after the book is released, you will need to order the number of books you want to go along with the calendars!

Yellow Card

In this year's letter I want to point out an advantage about the yellow postcard which came inside your calendar that might help some of you save some postage! If you send in the yellow card for the purpose of letting us know you want the next year's calendar, we automatically put you on the list of those who will get the next year's calendar when the pre-orders go out. The only reason for this not to happen is if you send in your yellow card after pre-orders have gone out. In that case your calendar will be sent as soon as your order is processed or with your next issue of *Shaqah* (if you're a *Shaqah* subscriber), which ever comes first! With that, I will remind everyone that this calendar is sent automatically to all those who subscribe to *Shaqah* by regular mail, but as a regular print *Shaqah* subscriber, if this calendar is not something you are interested in receiving, please take a moment to use the yellow card to let us know. We apologize that the postage is not prepaid; but as a blessing to this ministry, we hope you will help us not waste valuable resources sending you something you don't want. Just mark the option on the postcard which states you do not wish to receive the calendar, and we will put that note on your subscription information.

Not A Subscriber and E-mail Subscribers

If you're not a subscriber or are an e-mail subscriber to *Shaqah*, you can use the yellow card to tell us you want the following year's calendar, because if you do not tell us, you will not receive one. We

can't automatically send calendars because we may not have your regular mail address or a way of knowing if your mailing address is current.

Now, some of you may not be regular print subscribers to *Shaqah*, and you did not order a 2017 calendar from us, yet you got one anyway. This is likely because someone has sent this year's calendar to you as a gift! We want you to know this has not added you to a mailing list, and we will not continue to send calendars year after year unless you order one, or someone continues to request it for you! If the calendar is not something you want, and you don't know who it was that requested it for you, you may also use the yellow card to let us know you do not want the calendar, and we will do our best to keep that on our records. I say "do our best," because to help us do this you must be sure to put your name and address on the return address portion of the card. Both of these are important as we do not want to refuse requests for other people who might share your name, and please be aware that if your address changes we may not be able to identify you after that!

More Calendars

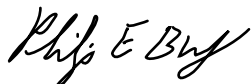
For those who would like to give one of these calendars to others for witnessing, as a teaching tool, or just to share with a friend as a gift, simply write or e-mail us to order more. You can also just visit our online Resource Shop where the drop down menu allows you to order up to five more calendars. The menu gives you a chance to order up to five because, as with all our materials, we do our best to provide these free of charge. This does not mean we are unwilling to provide more than five, but for those who would like or need larger quantities, we simply ask that you make the request directly. This gives us the ability to handle bigger orders on a more personal case by case basis, and assures we have the right information from you. If you would like more than five calendars, you can still use the Resource Shop form by simply making your request using the comment box!

PDF Calendar

Also remember there is a PDF version of this calendar which is available for download from our website. You can print this version for yourself, or to give to others. You can play with the size the calendar is printed, put it in the folder or binder of your choosing, use just the pages you want, etc. You can also just keep it right on the computer. For reference and study purposes, you also can still download the PDFs of all the previous years we've produced. Just visit www.livingspringsinstitute.org, clicking on "Learning Center," then "Calendar Project," then the PDF calendar icon.

In closing, we just want to say thank you again to all those who have taken part in this ministry and specifically this Calendar Project! As God continues to make a way for us to offer these calendars for free, we will continue to do so. It's also our prayer that it is, and will be, a great teaching tool. So, let us know what you think; and if you would like these calendars for your family, or to give to others, please don't forget to write, e-mail, or use our online Resource Shop!

Sincerely,



Philip E. Busby
Executive Director
Living Springs Institute